

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 ACDA-19 SAM-01 DRC-01 /176 W

----- 087294

R 200830Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9632

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

DIA

COMUSFORAZ

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PO

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON SPINOLA INAUGURAL ADDRESS

SUMMARY: SPEECH GIVEN BY GENERAL SPINOLA AFTER HE WAS  
SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT WAS BALANCED, MODERATE, AND  
MARKED BY RECOGNITION OF REAL PROBLEMS NEW LEADERS  
MUST FACE. (TEXT SENT BY FBIS). HIS RINGING AFFIRMATION  
OF ADHERENCE TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND HIS WARNINGS  
AGAINST DISORDERS AND REVENGE WERE PARTICULARLY  
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TIMELY AND APPEARED DESIGNED TO SOOTHE NERVES

THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL SPINOLA'S SPEECH TO NATION ON OCCASION OF HIS ASSUMING PRESIDENCY HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED BY FBIS LONDON (151628Z MAY 74). EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW.

2. SPINOLA'S LAVISH PRAISE OF ARMED FORCES AND PARTICULARLY ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WAS PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY COMBINATION OF FACTORS INCLUDING SINCERE ADMIRATION, DEFERENCE TO INFLUENCE AND POWER OF MOVEMENT, AND DESIRE TO REMIND NATION THAT IT WAS ARMED FORCES, NOT POPULAR REVOLUTION, THAT THREW OUT OLD REGIME. SPINOLA STRESSED HIS DEDICATION TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONS, AND EMPHASIZED RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO BUILD DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WHICH WILL ENABLE PEOPLE TO DECIDE DESTINY OF COUNTRY, THUS INDICATING THAT MAJOR LONG TERM DECISIONS WILL NOT BE MADE BY THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. SPINOLA STATED HE HAD ACCEPTED PRESIDENCY FOR SOLE PURPOSE OF SEEING THAT HOPES OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE BETRAYED; HE SAID THAT POLITICS DOES NOT APPEAL TO HIM, BUT MILITARY LIFE DOES; HE SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO MILITARY AFTER AN ELECTED PRESIDENT WAS SWORN IN. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, DEFINITELY RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD BE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY, WHICH WE FEEL IS LIKELY.

3. 3. LARGEST PART OF SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO NEED FOR ORDER IN PROCESS OF CHANGE NOW UNDER WAY. SPINOLA RECOGNIZED OCCURRENCE OF "SOME EXCESSES PREJUDICIAL TO THE CLIMATE OF CIVIC TRANQUILITY, THE FIRM SAFEGUARDING OF WHICH IS REQUIRED". HE SAID "DEMOCRACY DOES NOT MEAN ANARCHY" AND WARNED THAT "LIBERTIES OF SOME PERSONS MUST NOT BE THREATENED BY EXCESSES OF OTHERS". HE STATED THAT "DISREGARD FOR DEMOCRATIC SOCIAL ORDER HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH DICTATORSHIPS ENTER". NEITHER IN EUROPEAN PORTUGAL NOR IN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, SPINOLA SAID, WOULD MINORITIES BE PERMITTED TO AFFECT FREE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES. SPINOLA STRESSED NEED FOR SOCIAL STABILITY IN ECONOMIC SECTOR AND CALLED FOR

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INCREASED WORKER PRODUCTIVITY.

4. SPINOLA REPEATED CALLS MADE EARLIER BY ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF COSTA GOMES FOR "AFRICAN EMANCIPATION PARTIES TO RETURN TO FRAMEWORK OF FREE POLITICAL ACTIVITY" AS PROOF OF THEIR IDEALISM. THIS SUGGESTS PORTUGUESE HAVE NOT ABANDONED HOPE THAT INSURGENT MOVEMENTS MIGHT AGREE TO SEEK PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO OVERSEAS PROBLEM,

BUT IT UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO AIMED AT EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AUDIENCES.

5. SPINOLA PLEDGED TO CORRECT INJUSTICES OF THE PAST BUT WARNED AGAINST "BLIND HATRED OR VENGEFUL OBSTINACY TOWARD THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAST EVILS". HE SAID INVESTIGATION OF SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES MUST BE LEFT TO "JUSTICE" BECAUSE INTENTION OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WAS "THAT ARBITRARY DECISIONS AND OLD METHODS OF REPRESSION WOULD BE BANISHED FROM NATIONAL LIFE AND NOT MERELY CHANGE HANDS". HE RULED OUT READING POPULAR WILL BY MASS DEMONSTRATIONS, SAYING THAT DICTATORS HAVE ALWAYS USED SUCH "EUPHORIC POPULAR APPLAUSE". THIS SECTION IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE BECAUSE FATE OF OFFICIALS OF OLD REGIME HAS WORRIED MANY PORTUGUESE AND HAS POTENTIAL TO BRING PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT INTO CONFLICT WITH LEFT. HOWEVER, WE TAKE SPINOLA AT HIS WORD AND SUSPECT HE MUST HAVE GAINED AGREEMENT OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT BEFORE ADDRESSING PUBLIC ON THIS ISSUE OR INDEED EVEN BEFORE AGREEING TO HEAD JUNTA. COMPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT INDICATES THOSE WIELDING POWER, FOR MOST PART, FULLY SUPPORT SPINOLA ON THIS KEY QUESTION AND ON OTHER POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE.

6. WE BELIEVE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF SPEECH WAS TO REASSURE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY CIVIL SERVANTS AND BUSINESS SECTOR, THAT COUNTRY HAS STRONG, MODERATE LEADERSHIP WHICH IS AWARE OF APPREHENSIONS EXISTING IN COUNTRY AT LARGE AND WHICH IS DETERMINED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS IN AN ORDERLY, FAIR MANNER.  
SCOTT

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**TAGS:** PGOV, PO, (SPINOLA, ANTONIO DE)  
**To:** STATE  
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